(b) if so, what are the coal-mines in different States which will be used for gasification technology;

(c) what quantum of gas is expected to be achieved;

(d) by when the gas from coal is likely to be available for the use of the country; and

(e) whether necessary infrastructure is available for the process?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have signed an Agreement of Collaboration (AoC) with the Skochinsky Institute of Mining-National Mining Research Centre (SIM-NMRC), Moscow, on 25.11.2004 for Underground Coal Gasification (UCG).

The AoC envisages cooperation in the following areas:

* Sharing technical know-how and technologies related to UCG.
* Development and application of expertise in UCG technologies.
* Establishing technical feasibility through field demonstrations for different geological, hydrological and environmental conditions.
* Establishing the commercial feasibility of the process through a pilot project.

The AoC having been signed, the areas for undertaking UCG pilot projects would be firmed up in consultation with the SIM-NMRC.

(c) and (d) This will depend on the outcome of the pilot project.

(e) The collaboration with the Russian Institute envisages providing technology to build up appropriate infrastructure suitable for UCG, which could be firmed up once the pilot project is proved successful.

Gas reserves in Rajasthan

†2266. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gas reserves have been found in Barmer and Jaisalmer

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

districts of Rajasthan, if so, to what extent;

(b) what action is being taken for the survey of said deposits;

(c) the manner in which this gas is planned to be utilized;

(d) whether Pakistan is getting advantage indirectly from these gas reserves in Rajasthan due to indifferent attitude of the Central Government; and

(e) what is Government's policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) are operating in the Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan and have established 9.12 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) and 3.35 BCM of in-place gas reserves as on 1.4.2004 respectively.

Natural gas has been found in the block RJ-ON-90/1 in Barmer district of Rajasthan by M/s Cairn Energy Pvt. Ltd., which is under appraisal.

(c) OIL and ONGC are producing natural gas from Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan since July, 1996 at the rate of 7.2 lakhs cubic metre per day and 0.5 lakhs cubic metre per day respectively. The produced natural gas is supplied to Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Nigam Limited, Ramgarh for power generation through the pipeline operated by the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL).

(d) and (e) The discoveries of gas reserves found by both OIL and ONGC are entirely within Indian territory. These gas pools have not shown any abnormal pressure drop, thereby indicating that the gas pools are not drained out from the other side of the international border.

Subsidy on domestic LPG

2267. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide subsidy to private sector Reliance Industries Limited and gas firm GAIL for sale of LPG to domestic households;

(b) whether this offer of subsidy is subject to Government retaining the